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For Immediate Release Sen. Martha G. Scott Sen. Hansen Clarke March 3, 2006

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DETROIT AREA SENATORS WELCOME COLLABORATION GRANTS

LANSING—State Sen. Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) and State Sen. Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) welcomed the announcement today that the cities of Detroit, Hamtramck, Ferndale, and Royal Oak are the collective recipient of up to \$25,000 in grant aid to streamline city services.

"This is a great chance to bring the city and suburbs together to work toward a common goal," said Scott. "I look forward to seeing how the communities grow and jobs are created as a result of this project."

The grant will fund a project called Motown's Downtowns. The cities of Detroit, Hamtramck, Ferndale, Royal Oak will have assembled themselves together to revive and emphasize the value of historic downtowns and older communities through focusing on a cooperative transit system. Their goal is to reroute public transit through these downtowns and establish Motown's Downtowns weekends throughout the year so citizens can learn about and enjoy the assets of their neighbors' commercial and cultural centers.

"Bettering our transportation system will help grow the economy and create jobs," said Sen. Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit). "All the residents of southeastern Michigan will benefit from a more stream-lined system."

The grants are funded through existing community development dollars at the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. Proposals had to include information regarding how pilot funds will be supported by local, in-kind matching investments and a description of how progress will be measured. Priority was given to projects with a greater variety and number of governmental organizations involved in collaboration, likelihood of success, and support of community stakeholders.

More information is available at www.michigan.gov/cre